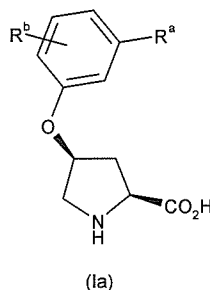


**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. - 10. (Canceled)
11. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula ~~(I)~~(Ia), ~~as described in according to claim 114, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,~~ and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents or carriers.
12. (Currently Amended) A combination comprising a compound of formula ~~(I)~~(Ia), ~~as described in according to claim 114, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate or pro-drug thereof,~~ and at least one other therapeutically active agent.
13. (Original) A combination according to claim 12, wherein the other therapeutically active agent is a PDEV inhibitor.

14. (New) A compound of formula (Ia):



wherein  $R^a$  is selected from halogen, hydroxy,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxycarbonyl,

$C_1-C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkenyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkynyl,

hydroxy $C_1-C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkoxy $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, perfluoro  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, perfluoro $C_1-C_6$  alkoxy,

$C_1-C_6$  alkylamino, di-  $C_1-C_6$  alkylamino, amino $C_1-C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkylamino $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, di- $C_1-C_6$  alkylamino $C_1-C_6$  alkyl,

$C_1-C_6$ acyl,  $C_1-C_6$ acyloxy,  $C_1-C_6$ acyloxy $C_1-C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_6$  acylamino,

$C_1-C_6$  alkylthiocarbonyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkylthioxo,  $C_1-C_6$  alkoxycarbonyl,

$C_1-C_6$  alkylsulfonyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkylsulfonylamino,

aminosulfonyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkylaminosulfonyl, di- $C_1-C_6$  alkylaminosulfonyl,

3-8 membered cycloalkyl, 4-8 membered heterocycloalkyl, phenyl and monocyclic heteroaryl;

$R^b$  is selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxycarbonyl,

$C_1-C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkenyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkynyl,

hydroxy $C_1-C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkoxy $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, perfluoro  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, perfluoro $C_1-C_6$  alkoxy,

$C_1-C_6$  alkylamino, di-  $C_1-C_6$  alkylamino, amino $C_1-C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkylamino $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, di- $C_1-C_6$  alkylamino $C_1-C_6$  alkyl,

$C_1-C_6$ acyl,  $C_1-C_6$ acyloxy,  $C_1-C_6$ acyloxy $C_1-C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_6$  acylamino,

$C_1-C_6$  alkylthio,  $C_1-C_6$  alkylthiocarbonyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkylthioxo,  $C_1-C_6$  alkoxycarbonyl,

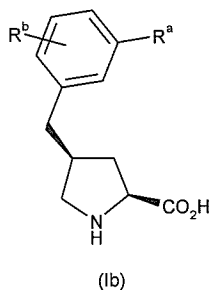
$C_1-C_6$  alkylsulfonyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkylsulfonylamino,

aminosulfonyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkylaminosulfonyl, di- $C_1-C_6$  alkylaminosulfonyl,

3-8 membered cycloalkyl, 4-8 membered heterocycloalkyl, phenyl and monocyclic heteroaryl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (New) A compound of formula (Ib):

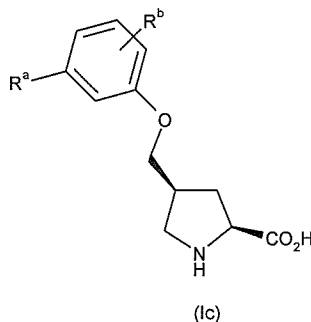


wherein  $R^a$  is selected from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxycarbonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkenyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkynyl, hydroxy $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, perfluoro $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino, di-  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino, amino $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, di- $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ acyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ acyloxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ acyloxy $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  acylamino,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthio,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthiocarbonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthioxo,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxycarbonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylsulfonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylsulfonylamino,

aminosulfonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylaminosulfonyl, di- $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylaminosulfonyl, 3-8 membered cycloalkyl, 4-8 membered heterocycloalkyl, phenyl and monocyclic heteroaryl;

$R^b$  is selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, ( $C_1$ - $C_6$ )alkoxy cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxycarbonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkenyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkynyl, hydroxy $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, perfluoro  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, perfluoro $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino, di-  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino, amino $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, di- $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ acyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ acyloxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ acyloxy $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  acylamino,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthio,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthiocarbonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthioxo,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxycarbonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylsulfonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylsulfonylamino, aminosulfonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylaminosulfonyl, di- $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylaminosulfonyl, 3-8 membered cycloalkyl, 4-8 membered heterocycloalkyl, phenyl and monocyclic heteroaryl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (New) A compound of formula (Ic):



wherein  $R^a$  and  $R^b$  are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, ( $C_1$ - $C_6$ )alkoxy, cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxycarbonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkenyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkynyl, hydroxy $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, perfluoro  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, perfluoro $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino, di-  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino, amino $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, di- $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylamino $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ acyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ acyloxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ acyloxy $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  acylamino,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthio,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthiocarbonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthioxo,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxycarbonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylsulfonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylsulfonylamino, aminosulfonyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylaminosulfonyl, di- $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylaminosulfonyl, 3-8 membered cycloalkyl, 4-8 membered heterocycloalkyl, phenyl and monocyclic heteroaryl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. (New) A compound of formula (Ia) according to claim 1 which is:

(2S, 4S)-4-(3-Chloro-phenoxy)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. (New) A compound of formula (Ib) according to claim 15 which is selected from the group consisting of:

(2S,4S)-4-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;

(2S,4S)-4-(2,3-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid; and

(2S,4S)-4-(2,5-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. (New) A compound of formula (Ic) according to claim 16 which is selected from the group consisting of:

(2S,4S)-4-(3-Fluoro-phenoxy)methyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;

(2S,4S)-4-(3,6-Difluoro-phenoxy-methyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;  
(2S,4S)-4-(2,3-Difluoro-phenoxy-methyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid; and  
(2S,4S)-4-(3-Methoxy-phenoxy-methyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (Ib) according to claim 15, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents or carriers.

21. (New) A combination comprising a compound of formula (Ib) according to claim 15, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one other therapeutically active agent.

22. (New) A combination according to claim 21, wherein the other therapeutically active agent is a PDEV inhibitor.

23. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (Ic) according to claim 16, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents or carriers.

24. (New) A combination comprising a compound of formula (Ic) according to claim 16, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one other therapeutically active agent.

25. (New) A combination according to claim 24, wherein the other therapeutically active agent is a PDEV inhibitor.

26. (New) The compound (2S,4S)-4-(3-Chloro-phenoxy)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.